

City of Raleigh Arts Commission Report on July – December 2010 Key Accomplishments

The overarching theme of 2010-2011 continues to be to follow “good to great” principles, modeling best practices in Arts Commission programs, meetings and other related operations and activities, as follows:

- **ARTS FUNDING:** Successful Commissioner and arts agency led advocacy effort to maintain per capita allocation for the arts at \$4.50 per resident, resulting in a total of \$1,750,167, of which 85% of funds were distributed through 36 grants to support local cultural organizations offering a diversity of programs (ranging from annual arts festivals to music lessons for disadvantaged youth). Additionally, implementation underway of recommendations from a year-long Grants Task Force study assessing national best practices in cultural grants programs.
- **PUBLIC ART:** The City of Raleigh hired its first full-time public art coordinator. Permanent and temporary public art projects included: 1) Installation and dedication ceremony for sculpture *Immigrant Gate II* by artist Jim Gallucci; 2) Installation of public art projects in downtown Raleigh including **Block2**, the latest venture by the Arts Commission to connect artists to community (Block2 features innovative videos projected on the window of Urban Design Center) and **Art on City Plaza** (temporary exhibition of three sculptures by regional artists on City Plaza pedestals for one year); 3) Creation of **Public Art Matters**, a new educational/outreach initiative to integrate art into the visual fabric of the city, including **Public Art is a Building Block “Box In”** events and distribution of original “make your own public art box” poster; 4) Selection of Durham, North Carolina based Vega Metals to develop public art for new park aquatic center; and 5) Artist call for third round of popular temporary public art project **Art-On-The-Move** (original art on the sides of city buses).
- **AWARDS:** Organize and host the 25th **Medal of Arts Awards Ceremony** at Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts (recognizing artistic achievement and individual and business support for the arts in Raleigh); hold successful fundraisers in collaboration with local arts galleries to support **Artist of Tomorrow** annual scholarship program for high school seniors pursuing a career in the arts; and continue, in collaboration with five other local arts agencies, the **Piedmont Laureate** program which annually selects a writer in a particular literary genre to conduct workshops and readings throughout area. Creative non-fiction author Scott Huler selected as 2011 Laureate (the program is becoming a model for regional cultural initiatives) (For more information, visit www.piedmontlaureate.com.)
- **EXHIBITIONS:** Well-attended exhibitions at **Block Gallery**, the 2296 square feet municipal building exhibition space in operation for 27 years. The gallery showcases the work of local artists with interdisciplinary events offered at each opening, as well as interviews and commentary by the artists via phone recordings and video interviews.
- **INFORMATION:** The Arts Commission continues to share cultural information and ideas with the public through an expanded city web platform and widely distributed e-resources (including bi-weekly Arts Flash) as well as print materials including exhibition catalogues, posters, postcards and flyers.

For more information on these and other programs, visit www.raleighnc.gov/arts or call 919.996.3610.